

MEMO

STATE OF MARYLAND

Department of Economic and Community Development

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Transmittal Slip

To: FILE

From: MRE

Date: 3/4/81

Due: _____

	PLEASE APPROVE & RETURN		FOR YOUR SIGNATURE
	AS REQUESTED		PLEASE NOTE & FILE
	PLEASE COMMENT & RETURN		PLEASE NOTE & RETURN
	COPIES ON		PLEASE SEE ME
	FOR YOUR INFORMATION		PLEASE TAKE CHARGE

REMARKS:

CE-308 CROPPER HOUSE

Now owned by
Edward and Sally Cairns
and
Herbert and Kathryn S. Ward
213 Old Field Point Circle
Elkton, Md. 21921
phone 398-2273 / 2141

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Old Post Office or Cropper House

AND/OR COMMON

Old Post Office or Cropper House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

#19 Bohemia Avenue, west side, corner of Second Street

CITY, TOWN

Chesapeake City

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Chesapeake City District Civic Asso.

Telephone #:(301) 398-5566

STREET & NUMBER

c/o William Stubbs

CITY, TOWN

Chesapeake City

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21915

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE, Cecil
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: WAS No. 331

Folio #: 30

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland 21921

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the northwest corner of Bohemia Avenue and First Street is the old Post Office, a four bay long, three story dwelling apparently built in the latter part of the second quarter of the nineteenth century. It is built upon a stone foundation, and partly over a cellar. The building is now in the process of being renovated.

Its facade is covered with beaded weatherboard (1975) and there are three windows and a door on the first floor, the windows having 6/9 sash (new). On the second story the windows have 6/6 sash and the third floor windows have 3/3 sash. From the front of the building the nearly flat roof can hardly be seen. It is covered with wood shingles.

The front portion of the structure is only one room deep. To the rear (west) is a two story addition, three bays long also covered with beaded weatherboard. Its windows have 6/6 sash throughout and there is a door adjoining the taller part of the house.

In the corner formed by the 'L' plan building is a two story leanto, also covered with beaded siding. Its roof has been altered during the remodeling to carry the water away from the neighboring property.

From the evidence inside, the building seems to have begun life as a one room structure with exposed ceiling structure. To it was added a room on the north, and the west wing. Probably at that time, the front was raised to three storys.

Its general form is the most important element of the structure.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cropper House is important as a major element in the first block of Bohemia Avenue. It represents an interesting growth from a single room building to a large typical mid-19th century residence.

Kendall Cropper moved into his new home on the corner of Bohemia Avenue and First Street in 1833. The town consisted of a few workers shacks for the laborers and the homes clustered near the old Bayard House. Lots for newcomers were not sold outright. Leases were granted by the Bayard family for 99 years renewable after that time. Ground rent was payable twice a year, the amount varying with the size and location of the land, \$12.00 a year for this.

Over the years, the building that Mr. Kendall Cropper built has served many purposes. Originally the building was a home, then a tin smith's shop, a pool hall, and a post office. Rooms have been added in the back as they have to nearly all the buildings in town. As families grew, and resources increased, rooms were added.

Dr. Thomas Conrey was one of the early owners of this property. He bought from Samuel Harris in 1858, a prosperous Delaware merchant who owned quite a bit of property in Cecil County.

Ref-Chesapeake City History prepared by class of 1917 in Historical Society.

Kendall Cropper is referred to as Captain Cropper and he and his three brothers were instrumental in founding the town. Kendall bought land from Richard Bayard, 112 acres east of Bohemia Avenue, before his death. He did not finalize the deal before he died in 1848 but his heirs honored the agreement. When Kendall Cropper died he left eight children and his widow, Ann. His children were Absalom P. Cropper, Samuel P. Cropper, Margaret Tuffree, Haradah Marshall, Littleton Cropper, Sarah Schultz, Eliza Bryan and William P. Cropper. These family names are familiar in Chesapeake City's history.

In the May 17, 1851, issue of the Cecil Democrat, "Captain Cropper of Chesapeake City," ran an advertisement in which he "contemplates an excursion between this place and Port Deposit on the ensuing Fourth of July". Fourth of July excursions were big occasions and lasted from early morning until late at night, with feasts along the way, at the destination, and again at the home port. The town band usually went along and young and old alike looked forward to these annual outings.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne & Katherine Wein

April 9, 1976

ORGANIZATION

DATE

South Chesapeake City Historic District Commission

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o Town Council of Chesapeake City

(301) 885-5298

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Chesapeake City

Maryland 21915

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION

APPLICATION — PART 1

(Pursuant to the Tax Reform Act of 1976)

Instructions: Applicant should read the instructions carefully before completing application. No Certification may be made unless a completed application form has been received (P.L. 94-455). Use typewriter or print clearly in dark ink to complete the application form. If additional space is needed to complete Part 1, use the reverse side or a separate plain sheet of paper clearly indicating the owner's name and mailing address. Part 1 of this application may be completed and sent to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer at any time during the year, and may be sent separately or with Part 2.

PART 1 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. NAME OF PROPERTY: The Cropper House (The Old Post Office)
Address of property Street 19 Bohemia Avenue, Chesapeake City, Maryland 21915
City _____ County Cecil State _____ Zip Code _____
Name of historic district in which property is located Chesapeake City (South Chesapeake City)

2. DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

(see instructions for map and photograph requirements—use reverse side if necessary)

See attached MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST Inventory Form for Building CE-308

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Built in 1833 by Captain Kendall Cropper, one of the earlier substantial structures in the developing canal town of Chesapeake City. See attached sheet on CE-308 for a more complete discussion of historic and architectural significance.
(use reverse side if necessary)

Date of construction (if known) approx 1833 ☒ Original site ☐ Moved Date of alterations (if known) various

4. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER:

Name Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Cairns Capt. & Mrs. Herbert H. Ward
Street 104 Jackson Hall Rd. 213 Oldfield Point Circle
City Elkton, Md. 21921 Elkton, Md. 21921 State _____ Zip Code _____
Telephone Number (during day) Area Code 301/398-3273 301/398-2141

mail to:

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I am owner of the property described above.
Signature [Signature] Date Oct 13, 1981

For office use only

The structure described above is included within the boundaries of the National Register historic district and ☒ contributes ☐ does not contribute to the character of the district.

The structure ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60).

The structure is located in a district which ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6); ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60); and ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to contribute to the character of said district.

Signature [Signature] Date 2-2-82
State Historic Preservation Officer

This property has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Department of the Interior (36 CFR 67) and, if subject to depreciation under section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954,

_____ hereby certified a historic structure

_____ does not contribute to the character of the historic district and does not merit certification as a historic structure. Reasons given on the attached sheet.

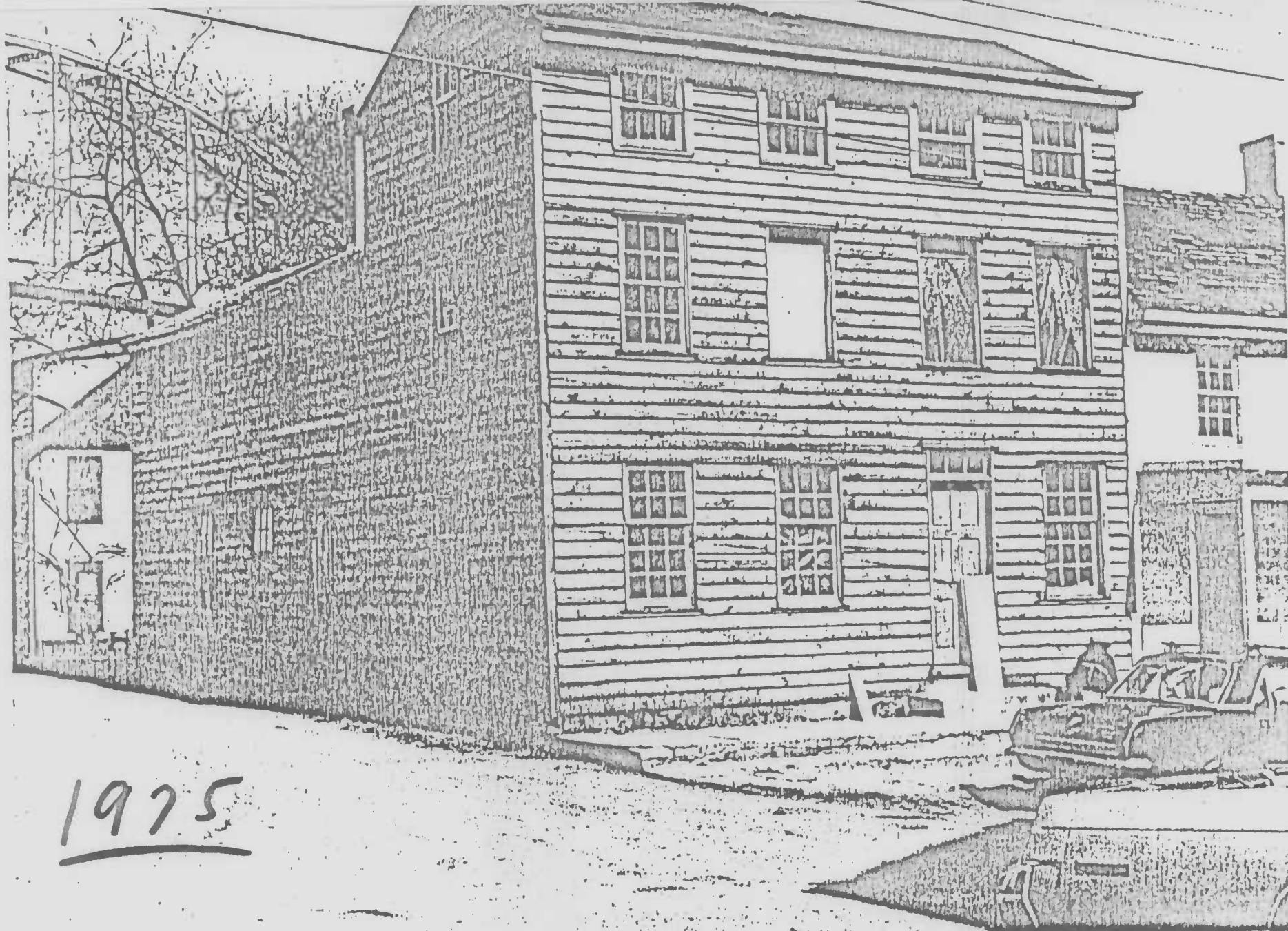
Signature _____ Date _____
Keeper of the National Register

CE-308

We acquired the Cropper House in 1981 from a group known as Historic Chesapeake City, Inc. They, in 1977, had done a restoration of the major portion of the house. They had hired a group of Amish from Pennsylvania to do this work. The restoration was done very carefully. Pictures of the interior of this portion of the house are attached.

When Historic Chesapeake City, Inc. made the apartment out of a portion of the house, about 65% of the house, they did so without much regard for development of the rest. Our development of the house was to use the rest of this space to make a second apartment. In this part of the structure there was nothing but bare studs and the backs of the walls from the first apartment, except that the previous group had constructed a fireplace in what was to become the livingroom of the second apartment (on the second floor).

803-33



1975

From BACKROADING THROUGH CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

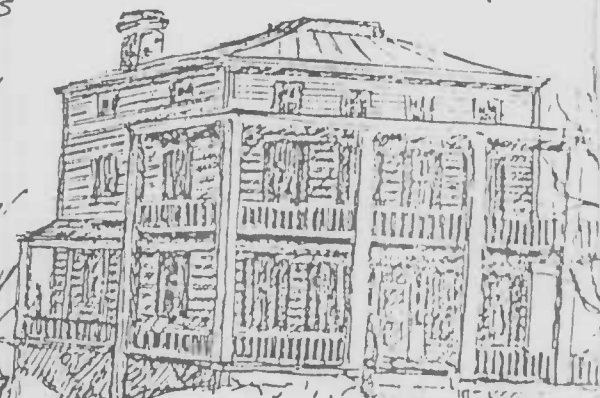
Nancy C. Sawin and Esther R. Perkins

II



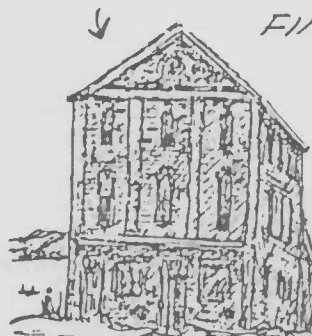
CROPPER HOUSE - 1833

THE HARRIOTT HOTEL THIS BUILDING IS THOUGHT TO BE THE OLDEST IN CHESAPEAKE CITY. IT IS BETTER KNOWN, HOWEVER, AS THE FRIENDLY WATERIN' SPOT, THE HOLE IN THE WALL.



THE BLUE MAN - 1844

FRANKLIN HALL NOW BEING RESTORED HOUSES THE TOWN LIBRARY. IT IS THE ONLY EARLY BRICK STRUCTURE IN THE TOWN AND ITS ARCHITECTURE IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF THE FEDERAL PERIOD.



THE LITTLE BUILDING WAS THE FORMER OFFICE OF RALPH REES, A TOWN OFFICIAL.



THE C & D CANAL "THE DITCH" CHESAPEAKE CITY

WORK ON THE CANAL BEGAN ON APRIL 15, 1824. AND WAS COMPLETED ON OCTOBER 17, 1829.

IT WAS FINANCED BY GRANTS

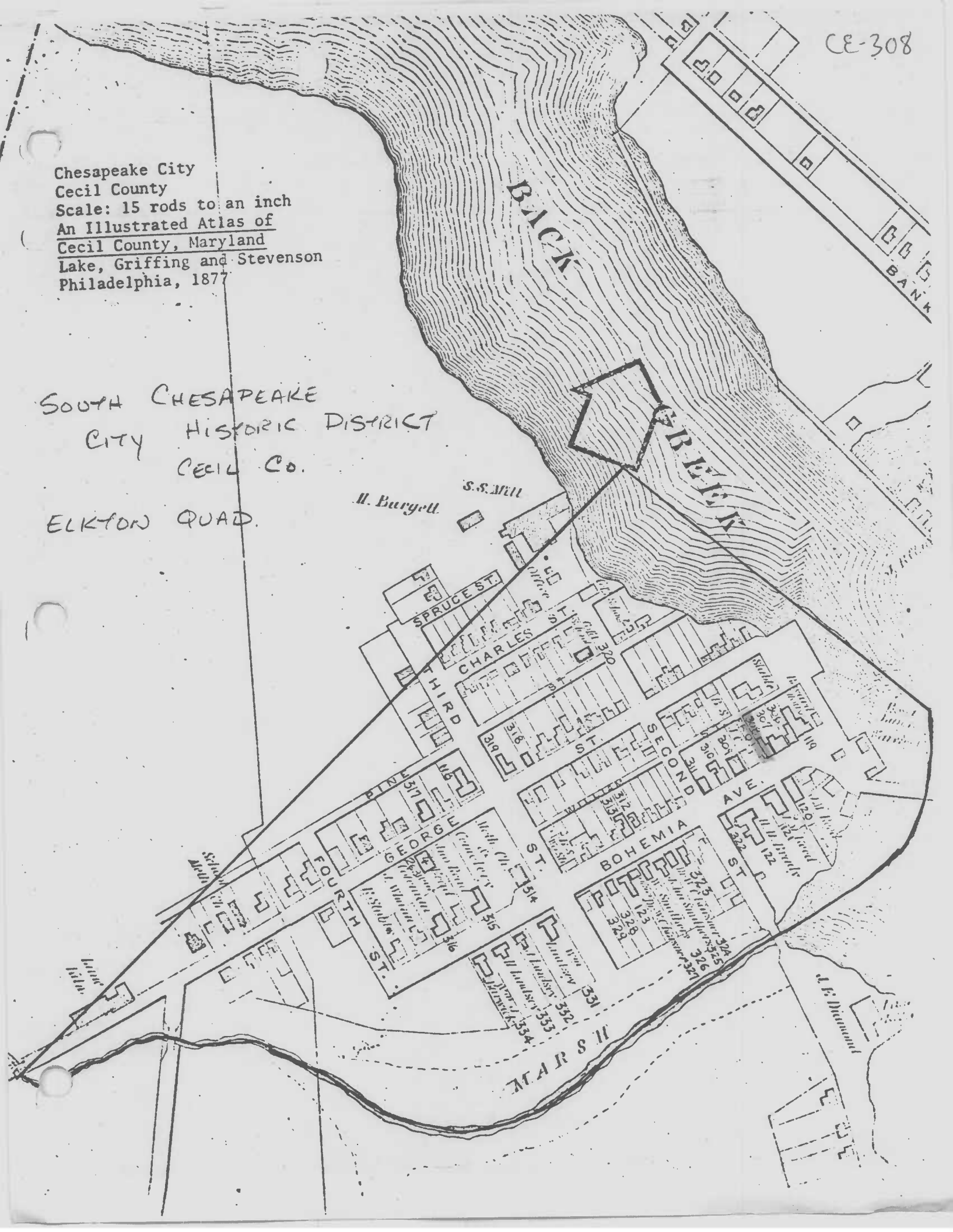
AND LOTTERIES. IT WAS A LOCK

CANAL WITH TOW PATHS FOR MULES. THE LOCKS WERE 24' WIDE. IT JUST ACCOMODATED DELAWARE'S CONTRIBUTION TO EARLY SHIPPING, THE SCHOONER RAM. BUILT ALONG THE BROAD CREEK IT MEASURED 23' 8" WIDE WITH VERTICAL SIDES.

THE CANAL HAS A REPUTATION OF BEING A DIVIDING LINE FOR PENINSULAR WEATHER. IF THE SUN IS SHINING SOUTH OF ITS BANKS, IT IS JUST AS APT TO BE RAINING OR SNOWING UP ELKTON WAY!

Chesapeake City
Cecil County
Scale: 15 rods to an inch
An Illustrated Atlas of
Cecil County, Maryland
Lake, Griffing and Stevenson
Philadelphia, 1877

SOUTH CHESAPEAKE
CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT
CECIL CO.
ELKTON QUAD.





PJB 8/94

left CE-308

right CE-307



Cropper House

CE-308

East facade

M. Bourne April 1976